On motion by Mr. BRIGHT, referred to the Committee on Finance and ordered to be printed.

Also, a communication from the Secretary of War, in compliance with a resolution of the 29th ultimo, transmitting estimates of amounts that can be advantageously expended in the construction of certain fortifications during the fiscal year ending the 30th of June, 1853.

On motion by Mr. SHIELDS, it was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Committee on Military Affairs.

[The Secretary refers, for his views in regard to the necessity and the relative importance of the various works included in the estimates, to his report on fortifications made to the House of Representatives at the commence-

ment of the present session.

The Secretary also says that while he concurs with the engineer-in-chief in regard to the importance of all the new works new in course of construction, (and which are included in the present estimates,) there are some the necessity for which is less urgent than for others. He transmits the estimates entire, leaving to Congress to dis-criminate, if they should prefer to do so, between them. He refers to page four of that document, which says:

He refers to page four of that document, which says:

"By reference to the list it will be seen that several of these
works constitute parts of the defences of some of our most important scaports, to wit, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk,
(with the navy yard at Portsmouth.) Charleston, Pensacola,
(the only good harbor for vessels of war and the only naval
depot on the Gulf.) and Mobile. There can be no doubt that,
if any points on our coast are yet to be fortified, these should
be among the number."]

OBITUARY

A message was received from the House of Representatives announcing the death of the honorable Mr. RANTOUL, a Representative from the State of Massachusetts. and the proceedings of that body thereon, when— Mr. SUMNER rose and said: By formal message

the House of Representatives we now learn that one of our associates in the public councils has died. Only a few brief days.—I had almost said hours—have passed since he was in his accustomed seat. Now he is gone from us forever. He was my colleague and friend, and yet so sudden has been this change that no tidings of his illness even had reached me before I learned that he was already beyond the reach of mortal aid or consolation, and that the shadows of the grave had already descend-ed upon him. He died here in Washington late on Satur-day evening, August 7th, and his earthly remains, accompanied by the bereaved companion of his life, with a committee of the other House, are now far on the way to Massachusetts, there to mingle, dust to dust, with his

The occasion does not permit me to speak at length of The occasion does not permit me to speak at length of the character or services of Mr. Rantoul. A few words will suffice; nor wi halanguage of eulogy be required. He was born August 18, 1805, at Beverly, in the county of Essex, the home of Nathan Dane, author of the immortal ordinance by which freedom was made a perpetual heir-loom in the broad region of the Northwest. Here, under happy auspices of family and neighborhood, he commenced life. Here, his excellent father, honored for his while services was a service with a service of the services. his public services, venerable also with years and flowing silver locks, yet lives to mourn his last surviving son. The sad fortune of Burke is renewed. He who should have been as posterity is now to this father in the place of ancestry.

Mr. Rantoul was early a member of the Legislature

of Massachusetts, and there won his first fame. For many years he occupied a place on the Board of Education in that State. He was also for a time collector of the port of Boston, and afterwards attorney of the United States for Massachusetts. During a brief period he held a seat in this body. Finally, in 1851, by the choice of his native district, remarkable for its intelligence and public spirit, he became a representative in the other branch of the National Legislature. In all these spheres he performed most acceptable service. And the future promised opportunities of a higher character, to which his abilities, industry, and fidelity would have amply responded. Massachusetts has many arrows in her wellsponded. Massachusetts has many arrows in her wen-stocked quiver; but few could she so ill spare as the servant we now mourn.

By original fitness, by study, knowledge, and various experience, he was formed for public service. But he was no stranger to other pursuits. Early devoted to the profession of the law, he followed it with assiduity and success. In the antiquities of our jurisprudence few were more learned. His arguments at the Bar were thorough; nor was his intellectual prometness in all emergencies of a trial easily surpassed. Literature, neglected by many under the pressure of professional life, was al-ways cultivated by him. His taste for books was enduring. He was a constant student. Amidst his manifold labors, professional and artificial artificial and artificial labors, professional and public, he cherished the honorable aspiration of adding to the historical productions of his country.' A work on the history of France, wherein the annals and character of this great nation should be portrayed by an American pen, had occupied much of his thoughts. I know not if any part was ever matured for publication.

The practice of the law, while it sharpens the intellect, is too apt to cramp the faculties within the narrow limits of form, and to restrain the genial currents of the soul. It had no such influence on him. He was a Reformer. In the warfare with evil he was enlisted early and openly as a soldier for life. As such he did not hesitate to enan hour or a day; but that it would be the slow and certain result of constant labor, testimony, and faith. Determined and tranquil in his own convictions, he had the ly and so mournfully made vacant.

But Mr. Rantoul found time, and possessed taste as But Mr. Rantoul found time, and possessed taste as the convictions of others. grace to respect the convictions of others. Recognising in the social and political system the essential elements of stability and progress, he discerned at once the office of acters in one, and to be at the same time a Reforming Conservative and a Conservative Reformer.

I might speak of his devotion to public improvements

of all kinds, particularly to the system of railroads. But here he was on the popular side. There were other causes where his struggle was keener and more meritorious. At the faithful supporter of common schools, the peculiar glory of New England. By word and example he sustained the cause of temperance. I the cause of temperance. Some of his most dewoted labors, commencing in the Legislature of Massachusetts, were for the abolition of capital punishment. Perhaps no person since that consummate jurist, Edward Livingston, has done so much, by reports, articles, letters, and speeches, to commend this reform to the country. With its final triumph, in the progress of civilization, his name will be indissolubly connected. There is another cause that commanded his early sympathies and some of his latest and best endeavors, to which, had life been spared, he would have given the maturity of his powers. Posterity cannot forget it; but I am forbidden by this occasion to name it here. Sir, in the long line of portraits on the walls of the ducal palace of Venice, commemorating its Doges, a single panel, where a portrait should have been, is shrouded by a dark curtain. But this darkened blank in that palace attracts the beholder more than any picture. Let such a curtain fall to-day upon this voted labors, commencing in the Legislature of Massachu-setts, were for the abolition of capital punishment. Perany picture. Let such a curtain fall to-day upon this

In becoming harmony with these noble causes was the purity of his private life. Here he was blameless. In manners he was modest, simple, and retiring. In conversation he was disposed to listen rather than to speak, though all were well pleased when he broke silence and in apt language declared his glowing thoughts. But in the public assembly, before the people, or in the legislative hall, he was bold and triumphant. As a debater, he received met his poor. rarely met his peer. Fluent, earnest, rapid, incisive, his words at times came forth like a flashing scimetar. Few could stand against him. He always understood his subject; and then, clear, logical, and determined, seeing his point before him, pressed forward with unrelenting power. His speeches on formal occasions were enriched by study, and contained passages of beauty. But he was most truly at home in dealing with practical questions

arising from the actual exigencies of life.

Few had studied public affairs more minutely or intel Few had studied public affairs more minutely or intelligently. As a constant and effective member of the Democratic party he had become conspicuous by championship of its doctrines on the currency and free trade. These he often discussed; and from his varied knowledge, his familiarity with facts, statistics, and the principles of political economy, poured upon them a luminous flood. But there was no tonic within the the principles of political economy, poured upon them a luminous flood. But there was no topic within the wide range of our national concerns which did not occupy his thoughts. The resources and needs of the West were all known to him; and Western interests were near to his heart. As the distant pioneer, resting from his daily labors, learns the death of Rantoul he will feel a personal grief. The fishermen opposite on the Eastern coast, many of whom are dwellers in his distrist, will sympathize with the pioneer. As these hardy children of the sea, returning in their small craft from their late adventures, hear the sad tidings, they will feel that they too tures, hear the sad tidings, they will feel that they too have lost a friend. And well they may. During his last fitful hours of life, while reason still struggled against disease, he was anxious for their welfare. The speech which in their behalf he had hoped soon to make on the floor of Congress was then chasing through his mind. Finally in broken utterances he gave to them some of his

latest earthly thoughts.

The death of such a man, so suddenly, in mid career,

and the wretched strifes of party, he has accented to those mansions where there is no strife, or concern, or care. At last he stands face to face in His presence whose service is perfect freedom. He has gone before. You and I, sir, and all of us must follow soon. God grant that we may go with equal consciousness of duty done!

I beg leave to submit the following resolutions:

Resolved, unanimously. That the Senate mourns the death of the Hon. Robert Rantout, jr., late a member of the House of Representatives from Massachusetts, and tenders to his relatives a sincere sympathy in this afflicting bereavement.

Resolved, As a mark of respect for the memory of the deceased, that the Senate do now adjourn.

The resolutions were adopted unanimously, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The House met at 11 o'clock A. M. Prayer by the Rev. C. M. BUTLER, Chaplain of the Senate. The Journal of Saturday was read and approved.

Mr. MANN said : Mr. Speaker, I rise to perform the melancholy service of announcing the death of the Hon. ROBERT RANTOUL, jr., late a member of the Massachusetts delegation in this House, who expired at his lodgings in this city on Saturday evening last, at half-past 10 'clock. Mr. Rantoul's illness was very brief; his death, until

a short time before he breathed his last, wholly the pected. He was in his seat here on Tuesday last, and though the death-mark of his disease was then upon him, rethank home as usual, foreboding no ill. No proyet he walked home as usual, foreboding no ill. No pro-phetic glimpse was vouchsafed to him that his final hour was so near at hand. When he returned home and shut the door of his dwelling, he little thought he had looked upon this fair and beautiful outward world for the last time; when he retired to his chamber he little dreamed that he should never walk forth from it again; but the stern enemy pursued him; and now the narrower door and the closer apartment of the coffin and the tomb have hidden him from us forever.

The disease of which Mr. RANTOUL died was the crysi

pelas—often, as in this case, a terrible form of death, for it disturbs and deranges the operations of the mind before it subdues the body. The malady had not made great advances with him before it attacked his brain, accompanied by the usual consequences of an inflammation and derangement of that organ. Death seems armed with sufficient terrors when we can meet it with unclouded intellect, and with a heart resigned to the will of God but certainly those terrors are inconceivably magnified when, as one of the concomitants of the disease, the mind loses its erectness and equipoise, and the laws of its ac-tion and motion are suspended; when the thoughts and memories and the images of external objects which the senses convey to the brain are mingled in wild confusion together, and the soul has no home but to wander up and down amid this chaos. How different from that state of peace and joy and trust in which every man hopes to meet the final hour; and does not every truly sane man

take measures for the realization of his hopes? RANTOUL, even amid the agonies of his disease, had lucid intervals. There were convictions in his mind so deep-seated and affections in his heart so strong as to stand unmoved by any tempest of delirium. On being telegraphed respecting the illness of her husband, his devoted and excellent lady, then in Massachusetts, hastened to his succor. She arrived here at six o'clock on the morning of the day he died. Instantly her voice wooed back consciousness and reason. He seized her hand in his, and held it till he breathed his last. Even when his mind wandered, this grasp of affection was unclenched. Death only relaxed it.

The swelling of the disease had closed his eyes, and it was beyond the power of muscular contraction to open them. He desired to have them opened by mechanical means, that he might once more behold the features and the face whence, for more than twenty years, the light of love had shone down into his heart. Thank God, sir, that, amid all the alienations and strifes and hostilities which seem sometimes to flow out of the human bosom as though it were their natural fountain, there are also af fections, sympathies, tendernesses, and loves which are inseparable from it; allied to it by a more congenial af-finity; and which we always may find there, "close as

green to the verdant leaf or color to the rose."

Mr. Rantoul was born in Beverly, Massachusetts, August, 1805. Had he lived until next Friday he would then be forty-seven years old. He entered Harvard Uni versity at the age of eighteen, and was graduated in 1826. He studied law at first with Mr. John Pickering, of Salem, who exemplified in his profession the largest meaning of the word law. He did not consider the law as an arbitrary or artificial scheme of forms and precedents, but as a great system of justice and truth, of God-ordained principles, on which alone, and by which alone, human society and human welfare can be upheld and advanced; nor as an art or device by which to get a living, but as a science by which to guide all life. After Mr. Pickering's removal to Boston, Mr. Rantoul was in the office of the Hon. Leverett Saltonstall, who was once a member of this House. He was admitted to the bar in 1829.

Mr. Rantoul soon became a man of mark. In 1834 he was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, from the town of Gloucester, where he then resided; counter opposition, to bear obloquy, and to brave enmity. | and from that time till his death he filled many public of-His onscience, pure as goodness, sustained him in every fices, both of a political and of an honorary nature. In And yet, while earnest in his cause, his zeal was temper- 1845 he was appointed United States District Attorney 'ed beyind that of the common reformer. He knew well for Massachusetts, the responsible daties of which office the difference between the ideal and the actual, and sought, by practical means, in harmony with the existing public In 1851 he was elected a Senator of the United States by by practical means, in harmony with the existing puone sentimen, to promote the interests which he had at heart. He saw clearly that reform could not prevail at once, in an hour or a day: but that it would be the slow and certain result of constant labor, testimony, and faith. De-

aptitude, for other services besides those of a strictly political or professional character. His natural instincts the Conservative and the Reformer. But he saw also that and moral culture led him to engage in worthier and no a blind conservatism was not less destructive than a blind bler occupations. He was, certainly for very many years reform. By the mingled caution, moderation, and earnestness of his labors, he seemed often to blend two characters in one and to be at the seemed often to blend two charearnest, devoted temperance man, a temperance advocate and lecturer, leaving home and the emoluments of his and lecturer, leaving home and the emoluments of his profession to visit and even traverse distant parts of the State to preach the gospel of this great reformation. To him, among others, is Massachusetts indebted for her present advanced position in this world-renovating enterprise—an enterprise which, if successful, will enlarge the imprisoned angels of joy whose home is the fireside and the domestic altar, while it will send to penal chains and darkness the degrees who have so long any enterprise their darkness the demons who have so long usurped their

place.
Mr. Rantoul adhered to this cause steadfastly, "through

for six years, and until it expired by its own limitation.

He was an active and most intelligent member of the Board. He was a wise counsellor and a faithful friend of that cause, then impugned and contested, but now so deeply seated in the affections of the people that it would be as difficult to obliterate it from our social polity as to expunge the judiciary itself. While a member of the Board, Mr. Rantoul wrote a very able article on the Board, Mr. Rantoul wrote a very able article on the subject of Education for the number of the North American Review published October, 1838.

Mr. Rantoul devoted vast attention and the still vexed question of capital punishment; and perhaps it may be said that no man is fitted fully to discuss this theme without reading what he has written. In the course of his life Mr. Rantoul has addressed

many literary societies, made political speeches almost innumerable, and has been engaged in legal causes of great magnitude and difficulty; and one thing may be affirmed of all his public performances: he never feil below the occasion, never disappointed the expectations of his most sanguine friends. No greater misfortune can befall a man than to be elevated to a post to which his talents or attainments are unequal. The same man who has been respected and honored in a subordinate sphere may be-come ridiculous and contemptible in a higher one, to which injudicious friends may advance him. Though it may be the same man, yet we judge of his size by the height of the pedestal on which he stands. He may seem of full stature when near the ground, but dwindle to a pigmy on the top of a column. Hence every promotion has its risk. Mr. Rantoul encountered all such risks, and not only escaped but always triumphed. Each successive increase in the height of his pedestal only showed

his large proportions to better advantage.

Though mainly dependant upon his own exertions for a livelihood, yet Mr. Rantoul had time for study, and means for libraries and other auxiliaries of eminence, bemeans for libraries and other auxiliaries of eminence, be-cause he never had any time-consuming or mind-weaken-ing vices. He kept himself clean and pure from the miserable personal indulgences of the epicure and the bon vivant, which eat away time and consume means, and

ceipts and expenditures and those stated in the reports of finance for the year ending the 30th of June, 1849, and the regard of fellow-citizens, he has been removed. Leaving behind the cares of life, the concerns of state, and the wretched strifes of party, he has ascended to by the precision of its blow. He was of too kindly a nature to generate much satire; yet against oppression and fraud he could be severe. Either consciously or un-consciously, he recognised the great truth that no moral being can see virtue and vice as they are, and the eternal antagonism between them, and love the former without hating the latter. He who thinks it his duty to look com-

placently upon wrong mistakes torpidity of conscience for charity.

Mr. Rantoul's attainments were all in harmony with his original cast of mind—not showy, but solid; not ga-thered for ostentation, but for use. There was depth enough in his stream of thought to make a score of brawling rivulets. In promiscuous company, while the conver-sation roumed and floated over the levities of literature or the frivolities of history, I have known him to sit by the hour almost dumb; but when the conversation struck into the depth and heart of things, when it discussed the great events that join and articulate the history and fortunes of mankind, then suddenly it became his turn to shine; and he would set forth his principles, and march my his close bettelling feets and appropriate for their sunderstands. up his close battalia of facts and arguments for their sup-port, till the rash disputant who encountered him would require a library of books and months of time to study up to his positions.

So far as my knowledge extends, I am not aware that any imputation of personal dishonor or dishonesty ever rested for an hour upon his name; which, for a man so extensively engaged in business and in politics as he was, is the highest certificate of his being that "noblest work of God," an honest man. For years I knew him well, and saw him frequently, and, though differing from him on many points, yet I have said to his opponents a thousand times, and I now say it to the world, I believed him to be honest and sincere. A political man should not be condemned without some great, irrefragable, luminous proof of his blameworthiness; and surely no such can be alleged against Mr. Rantoul.

But, sir, I will not pursue these remarks, each sentence of which is a fresh remembrancer of our loss. In the vigor of his manhood; his disciplined faculties all ready and eager for effort; his stores of knowledge wonderfully full; his fame already bright and high, though not yet culminated, he has been suddenly stricken down. I do not say that this proclaims to us the vanity and worthlessness of life; for that is a doctrine I do not believe; but do not its admonitions strike us with a voice "loud on the heart as thunder on the ear," proclaiming that it is only those acts of duty and benevolence which survive the actor, and whose effects go on widening and deepening in an unend-ing progression of beneficence after we have departed, that can give true dignity and beauty and nobleness to our transitory existence upon earth? If, as I believe, death is but an event in life, our Book of Judgment, our rewards and penalties in another world, may at least partly consist in our beholding the consequences, then fated and

onsist in our benotting the consequences, then taked and inexorable, of our former conduct.

While remembering the widow and the orphan sons of the deceased, there is a venerable form in that group of family mourners who must not be forgotten. Mr. Rantoul the senior is a gentleman of more than three score and ten years, of great worth and excellence of private cha racter; for many years a member of one branch or the other of our State Legislature, and universally respected. Of his eight children, six have now gone before him. Our friend, my colleague, was his only surviving son. In such a case truly it may be said, "'tis the survivor dies." A lone and solitary parent, bereft of his children, has been compared to an aged tree stripped of its foliage and its limbs, and casting its shade by its trunk, and not by its branches-

"Trunco, non frondibus efficit umbram." Oh, may the spirit of God descend with healing, when

this last arrow pierces that aged heart! Mr. Speaker, I move the adoption of the following reolution Resolved, That this House has received with deep sensibili-

y the announcement of the death of the Hon. ROBERT RAN-out, jr., a member of this House from the State of Massa-Resolved. That this House tenders to the family of the de

ceased the expression of its sympathy on this affecting event; and, as a testimony of respect for his memory, the members and officers of this House will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

Resolved, That the Clerk of this House be directed to com-

municate a copy of these proceedings to the family of the deceased, and also to the Senate. Resolved, That, as a further testimony of respect for the deeased, this House do now adjourn. Messrs. FOWLER, McLANAHAN, MACE, and CLARKE everally addressed the House in eulogistic terms of the private character and public services of the deceased.

The question was taken upon the several resolutions, nd they were unanimously adopted. The House then adjourned

Tuesday, August 10, 1852.

IN SENATE.

The PRESIDENT of the Senate laid before the body a communication from the Treasury Department, made in compliance with a resolution of the 6th instant, calling for information relative to the revenue collected by James Collier, late collector of the customs at San Francisco; which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed. Also, the report of the Secretary of the Interior, made in compliance with a resolution of the Senate, calling for county, if a gentleman starved his slaves, it detracted domain. The services in this case are, however, information in relation to the public lands in the State of Louisiana; which was ordered to lie on the table and be men living in his neighborhood; and if an employer

[The quantity of public land now subject to entry in that State is 9,140,714 acres, and 4,239,360 acres of unsurveyed land not subject to entry until it has been surveyed and offered to public sale.

The quantity granted to the State under the 8th section of the act of Congress of 4th September, 1841, was 500,000 acres; under the act of 2d March, 1849, to aid the State in draining swamp lands, is estimated at 8,877,998 acres; and for educational purposes 822,124 acres; making the aggregate granted to the State under the various laws 10,210,122 acres.]

RESOLUTIONS OF A STATE LEGISLATURE.

Mr. TOUCEY presented resolutions of the Legislature f the State of Connecticut, approving of the acts of the last Congress known as the compromise measures, considering them as disposing finally and peacefully of a variety of questions which had previously disturbed the ountry, embarrassed the Government and the National legislation, and seriously threatened the existence of the The resolutions were ordered to lie on the table and be

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES. Mr. BRIGHT, from the Committee on Roads and Ca-nals, to which was referred a bill to provide more effectually for overcoming the obstructions to the navigation of the Ohio river at the falls thereof, reported back the same, and recommended that it lie on the table; which report was concurred in.

Also, from the same committee, to which were referred

the several memorials, resolutions, &c. relating to the construction of a canal round the falls of the Ohio, sub-

foundry at the falls of the Ohio river, in connexion with a public canal for the use of the army and navy, trade and commerce, and for the supply of water power for manu-facturing ordnance and arms for the use of the United

[The report says: "The transcendant importance of the subject had constrained the committee to devote much time and bestow mature deliberation and care upon its consideration, which it is hoped will be some justification

consideration of the Senate. reference to the protection of the northwestern froncier and commerce of the lakes, as well as to the defence of was ample. our southern coast and trade and commerce of the Gulf of Mexico, an establishment for the manufacture of ordnance and arms on the Western waters as of transcendant importance in the defences of the country, and, in the event of a war with a powerful maritime nation, would be

indispensably necessary."]
Mr. DAWSON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, o which was referred the memorial of the agent of the State of Virginia, asking that certain moneys expended by that State in organizing the Virginia regiment of vol-unteers for the Mexican war, submitted a report, which was ordered to be printed, authorizing the Secretary of War to pay to the State of Virginia all moneys advanced by her to volunteers engaged to serve during the war be-tween the United States and Mexico, from the day of heir enrolment until mustered into the service of the paid United States.

bon vivant, which eat away time and consume means, and set so many a young man back in the race of life, and though often more attractive than alarming at first, generally develop and mature into full-grown and hideous vices afterwards. In abstinence, in industry, in system, he was a pattern for young men. He lengthened life by beginning to perform its duties early.

Mr. Rantoul's mind was singularly keen and acute. Yet he did not use his keenness and acumen as they are so often used, to cut and pierce at random, but to strike the joint and trace out the marrow of whatever subject he dissected. The working of his faculties was rather Also, from the same committee, to which was referred

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. .

The SPEAKER laid before the House a message from he President of the United States, transmitting a report from the acting Secretary of State, and the documents by which it was accompanied, in answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 22d ultimo, on the subject of the fisheries. The President states, for the in-formation of the House, that the United States steam frigate Mississippi has been dispatched to the fishing grounds on the coasts of the British possessions in North America, for the purpose of protecting the rights of American fishermen under the Convention between the Unite States and Great Britain of the 20th of October, 1818.

The message and accompanying documents were referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and ordered t be printed. CIVIL AND DIPLOMATIC APPROPRIATION BILL On motion of Mr. HOUSTON, the House went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr

PHELPS, of Missouri, in the chair,) and resumed the con PHEDES, of Missouri, in the chair,) and resumed the consideration of the bill making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of Government for the year ending 30th June, 1853, and for other purposes.

Many amendments were offered and acted upon. Among those adopted was one (on motion of Mr. McCORKLE) inserting in the bill an item appropriating \$300,000 for the erection of a branch mint of the United States in San Francisco, California. more than those men who received over three dollars a

Francisco, California.

Mr. WEIGHTMAN moved to insert in the bill the fo lowing item:

For payment of losses by Indian depredations in New Mexi co since that Territory was taken possession of by the American troops under Gen. Kearny, in the year 1846, \$1,751,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary, to be disbursed under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. W. said that by the treaty between the United State and Mexico, which was the supreme law of the land, the Government of the United States guarantied to protect the people of New Mexico in the enjoyment of their pro perty. A very large amount of property had been taken away from these people by Indian depredations, and he now proposed the sum named in his amendment to reimnow proposed the sum named in his amendment to reim-burse them for these losses. The amount which he pro-posed was based upon the census returns, which of course were prepared by officers of the United States. It was not the exact amount, and would fall short several hun-dred dollars. This case was a somewhat aggravated one; for the people of New Mexico time and again requested the authorities of the United States to give them arms, to enable them to recover their stolen property; but this was always refused. He thought the amendment was just, and should be adopted.

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, inquired of the delegate from New Mexico whether, if he was entitled to vote, he

would vote in favor of this amendment?

Mr. WEIGHTMAN replied most assuredly he would.

Mr. HOUSTON said that the amendment proposed to appropriate a very large sum, and he thought that, as the subject had never been investigated by a committee of the House, it should not be adopted. He presumed that the delegate who submitted this amendment was as uninform ed as himself as to the correctness or incorrectness of this appropriation.

question was then taken, and the amendment we Mr. GENTRY moved to insert in the bill an amendmen granting an increase of compensation to the clerks and messengers in the employ of the Government at Washing-

Mr. G. remarked that he did not think it was needfu for him to say any thing in explanation of this amend-ment. It was based upon the idea that the facts set forth n the petition of some of the clerks of the Government presented by him two or three days ago, were true, viz. that the expense of living in the city of Washington had been very much augmented by the influx of gold from California. This fact he thought was unquestionable, and there was not a solitary individual who had given any

attention to the subject who could pretend to controvert it. Then, unless it could be successfully established that he compensation of these employes had heretofore been adequate or too large, the conclusion inevitably followed that this was an appeal to their justice which ought not to be repudiated for increasing their compensation. Cases of suffering had come to his knowledge, which, if told to the committee, would, he was sure, enable this amendment to pass without a negative vote. There were clerks in these departments receiving an annual compen sation of no more than one thousand dollars who were as well born, as well bred, as intelligent, as patriotic, as honorable, and as sensitive as the best member upon this floor, and more competent to be members of than most of them. He knew of a case of this kind in the person of a clerk in whose bosom there beat as nobl impulses as ever filled the breast of any man. The gen-tleman to whom he alluded had been a member of the Legislature, and a merchant in affluent circumstances; but he was overtaken by misfortune, and for the purpose of supporting himself and family accepted an office of a thousand a year, with an assurance that he would be promoted whenever a vacancy should occur. Living scantily, his proud heart chafed to death, and he died without the means of being decently buried. By the charity of his fellow-clerks, however, he found a place in the bosom of his mother earth. This was but one example of men dying here having to be buried by charitable contributions voluntarily given by men who have nothing to spare. But he had no time for a lengthy argument, or in which to give illustrations. The com starved his employés and apprentices, it would him to lose his cast as a respectable man. Now, were they so poor that they should starve the employes of the Government? Would they starve them to death, and allow them to be subjected to the contributions of the charitable for burial expenses? He trusted not; for i was wise economy to give fair compensation to the em-ployés of the Government. He hoped nobody would op-

pose the amendment.

Mr. DUNHAM said that although he admitted there was a necessity for some change in the salaries of many of the clerks, yet he felt himself compelled to oppose the amendment, doing so because he did not think it equal and just. He thought there should be a general reform in the manner in which clerks were paid at the presen-time. If gentlemen would visit the Post Office Department they would find clerks sitting side by side at the same desk discharging the same duties, and yet receiving different salaries—one perhaps receiving fifteen hundred dollars per annum and the other only a thousand. This he contended, was not just or right. He made severa objections to the amendment, which were not heard by the

reporter.

Mr. BROWN, of Mississippi, said that the clerks here especially those occupying subordinate positions, were in the present state of affairs, inadequately compensated He had some experience in the matter of housekeepin in this city, and he now came forward to bear his willin testimony to the fact that no genteel family numbering a half dozen persons could subsist in this seat of govern-ment upon a salary of a thousand dollars a year. In his judgment it was utterly impossible for them to do it. It might be said, however, that if the salaries of the clerks were not sufficient, they could resign their places and leave the city. This they could not do, for many of them were so poor that they could not do, for many of them which to go away. He did not think it was the policy of the Government to bring men here to be put upon the

pauper list.

Mr. FOWLER expressed himself opposed to the amendment, taking the ground in the outset that these clerks already received sufficient salaries. He was opposed to it on another ground—that if they should raise the sala-ries of the clerks in the city of Washington, they would have to raise them in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Richmond, and every where else; for the prices of living had increased all over the country. If the salaries were not sufficient here, they were not sufficient in all other places where Government clerks were employed. Cali-fornia gold which had increased the price of living here for the prolixity of the report, and an ample reason for the conclusion to which it has come, as shown by the two bills, which are earnestly recommended to the favorable the last Congress he was a boarder, and boarded in two ensideration of the Senate.

"The committee think, in a military point of view, in he had been a housekeeper, and lived much better than he did the last Congress. He could say that his salary

A MEMBER. What is your salary? Mr. FOWLER replied that it was only about seven hundred dollars during a short session, and about two thou-sand during a long one. He acknowledged that the prices of living here were high, but if gentlemen would practice frugality, economy, and temperance, and not be too ex-travagant in their outlays, they could live well in Wash-ington, and lay up five hundred dollars a year out of a fifteen hundred, and do so much easier than nine-tenths of their constituents at home. In regard to this matter of raising salaries, if they were not high enough, Congress should take the subject in hand and consider it well. If the salaries of the President, the Secretaries, Judges, and other officers should be raised, Congress should raise them, for they should all be well

Mr. DEAN moved to add a proviso the effect of which would be that the proposed increase of compensation should not be extended to any person discharging the duties of more than one office at the same time, nor to any one who does not perform the duties of the office for which he re-

ceives compensation.

Mr. D. stated the cases to which his amendment was intended to apply, declaring that he was not disposed to resist the amendment of the gentleman from Tennessee to add to the remuneration of clerks who were legitimately engaged in the various Departments of the Government. He had no doubt that there were instances where their compensation might properly be increased, and if the

amendment could be so guarded as not to put it in the a proposition which was a modification of the original power of the heads of departments and bureaus still further to abuse the powers that were in their bands, he Mr. GORMAN alluded to the increase of the cost

living here within the past year, and thought that the amendment of Mr. Gentry should be adopted. The amendment of Mr. DEAN was then agreed to. Mr. JOHNSON, of Tennessee, moved to amend the amendment as amended by adding thereto a clause that twenty percent, be added to the monthly pay now received by all the employes of Government who are engaged in

any branches of the mechanics or common labor.

He remarked that when the Government needed taxes or when they wanted men to fight their battles, they called upon the description of persons designated in his amendment; but when money was to be voted out of the treasury, without stint and without measurement, this class of people were never thought of. He should like to men who worked at the navy yard forging anchors, wielding sledges, or building ships, ten hours a day, and who received but a dollar and a half per day, did not deserve and need this addition of twenty per cent.

day for working but six hours? Mr. GENTRY, after saying that justice and right were all he looked to in reference to any case that came before him. remarked that so far as individual motives were concerned, to show that he was acting in conformity with his sentiments, he would state that he knew that nine-tenths of the persons who would be benefited by this amend-ment, if it should pass, had been denouncing him for the last six months; for they were all Scott Whigs and Democrats. He had no personal motive in offering this amendment, but only desired to do what he thought was right and proper.

Mr. Johnson's amendment was then negatived : Aver Mr. CHANDLER then submitted a few remarks in favor of the amendment; and

Mr. SKELTON opposed it.
Mr. CARTTER moved to strike out all of the amend Mr. CARTTER moved to strike out all of the amendment except that part of it which applied to clerks who received a salary of a thousand dollars a year, and advocated the adoption of his motion.

Mr. BOWIE alluded to precedents in support of the original amendment, and earnestly hoped it would be adopted.

The amendment of Mr. Cartter was then agreed to:

Ayes 64, noes 61. A question here arose as to whether the amendment just adopted could be considered as such, inasmuch as

the original amendment did not mention clerks who re ceived one thousand dollars per annum. Before deciding this question-

The committee rose and reported progress. The House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1852.

IN SENATE.

Mr. DAVIS, from the committee to which was referred House bill making appropriations for the improvement of certain harbors and rivers, reported back the same with sundry amendments. The following are the leading amendments:

For the survey of the Rappahannock river, Virginia, \$3,000. For the survey of Taunton river, Massachusetts, \$3,000. For survey of San Antonio river, Texas, \$5,000. For repairs of Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey, \$8,500. For repairs of East Pascagoula Bay, Mississippi, \$5,000. For repairs of Providence Harbor, Rhode Island, \$1,500.

For repairs of Providence Harbor, Knode Island, \$1,500.

For examination of falls of the Ohio river by a board to be appointed by the Secretary of War, to report on the expediency of an additional canal around the falls, \$5,000.

For repair of sea wall at Marblehead, Massachusetts, \$500.

For survey of the harbor of Georgetown, South Carolina

For the survey of Shrewsbury river, New Jersey, \$1,500 For repairs of piers at Kennebeck, Maine, \$7,500. For a breakwater at Owl's-head, or at Rockland harbo faine, at the discretion of the Department, \$1,500. raine, at the discretion of the Department, \$1,300 For the removal of obstructions at Dubuque, Iowa, \$15,000 For the repairs of piers at Great Sodus Bay, New York

For improving Cape Fear river, at or below Wilmington North Carolina, \$20,000.

For repairs of piers at Huron river harbor, Ohio, \$10,000.

For repairs of piers at Ashtabula, Ohio, \$15,000.

For repairs of breakwater at Burlington, Vermont, \$10,000 For repairs of breakwater at Conneaught, Ohio, \$10,000. For repairs of breakwater at Newcastle, Delaware, \$15,000 For further surveys of the harbor at Bridgewater, Connec

t. \$10,000. Mr. BRODHEAD, from the Committee of Claims, sub mitted a bill for the relief of Herman Blannerhasset and Joseph Lewis Blannerhasset, heirs of Herman Blannerhasset, accompanied by a report, which was ordered to be printed.

DISCOVERERS OF COLUMBIA RIVER. Mr. FELCH, from the Committee on Public Lands, to which was referred the petition of Martha Gray, widow of Capt. Robert Gray, first discoverer of Columbia river, submitted a bill granting lands in Oregon to Martha Gray and others, accompanied by a report, which was

ordered to be printed.

[The report is an elaborate one, and full of interes sing with the following: "The committee could not, of course, in any ordinary case, recommend a compensation to be given for services in connexion with the early exof so peculiar a character, that they believe the Government owes it to the merits of these men and their services to depart from the general rule, and to make them some compensation in land in the region where their services were performed, and where their purchases were made of the native chiefs. They therefore report a bill giving to the widow of Capt. Gray, and to the children of Capt. Kendrick, and each of the owners of the two exploring vessels sections of land. This grant, though insignificant in pecuniary value, may yet afford a solace in the declining years of some of the memorialists, while it will prove to them all that time has not obliterated from the mory of this country the worth and the services of their departed relatives."]

INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL. The Senate then proceeded to the consideration of the bill making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian department and for fulfilling treaty stipulations, &c. The bill was reported to the Senate.

Several additional amendments were then agreed to and

everal others ruled out of order; when
Mr. WELLER moved to strike out \$3,000 to make ore these Indians (with whom treaties had been negotiated and rejected by the Senate) temporary relief until perma-nent arrangements could be made, with a proviso that no-thing in the amendment should be so construed as com-mitting the United States to any further appropriations of a like character.

Upon this amendment a long and somewhat desultor.

debate ensued, in which Messrs. HUNTER, BADGER, BUTLER, CASS, BELL, WELLER, DAWSON, WALKER, STOCKTON, MALLORY, HOUSTON, and others took part, when the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. COOPER moved to amend the bill by inserting an

appropriation of \$50,000 to cover the claim of Ames and John E. Kendall as attorneys to the Western Cherokees; which, after considerable debate, was rejected. Mr. BADGER moved an amendment to the bill which

in effect was to allow interest to David Taylor, increasing the amount from \$12,000 to \$24,000; which was Mr. WALKER moved an additional section, which provided that all moneys appropriated should be paid to the Indians direct, and in no case to agents or attorneys; and

Indians direct, and in no case to agents or attorneys; and that agents employed by Government to pay the Indians shall swear that they have no interest in any claim or assignment; which was agreed to without a dissenting The amendments were then ordered to be engrossed

and the bill read a third time; and the Senate adjourned. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House proceeded to consider the resolution yesterday submitted by Mr. Housron, to suspend the rule al-lowing five minutes on amendments in half an hour after the Committee of the Whole shall resume the consideration of the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill.

Mr. McMULLEN moved to lay the resolution on the

table, which motion was negatived.

The resolution was then adopted under the operation

of the previous question.

On motion of Mr. HOUSTON, the House then went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. Pheles, of Missouri, in the chair,) and resumed the consideration of the bill making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of Government for the year ending 30th June, 1853, and for other purposes.

The CHAIRMAN stated that when the committee rose

The CHAIRMAN stated that when the committee rose yesterday, a question was pending as to whether the amendment adopted yesterday on motion of Mr. Carter, striking out all of the amendment of Mr. Gentre except that part of it which applied to clerks who received a thousand dollars a year, could be considered as an amendment, inasmuch as the original proposition did not mention clerks who received a thousand dollars per annum. The Chair now decided that the amendment of Mr. Carter having been adopted, it virtually struck out all of the amendment of Mr. Gentre, and as the amendment of Mr. Carter referred to a class of clerks which was not embraced in the original proposition, therefore it could

embraced in the original proposition, therefore it could not be considered as an amendment.

Mr. GENTRY said that he acquiesced in the decision of the Chair very readily. He understood its effect to be to have stricken out all after the enacting clause in the section which he offered as an amendment. It therefore made a blank. He now proposed to fill that blank with

amendment to this extent: it was only applicable to clerks having a salary not exceeding \$1,500 per annum. It excluded all in the original amendment above that. The amendment he now submitted proposed to increase the compensation of the employes of the Government in this city whose present salary does not exceed \$1,200 a year twenty per cent and are \$1.00 a. year twenty per cent, and over \$1,200 and not more than \$1,500, fifteen per cent. He made this modification in his original proposition to meet the views of gentlemen to whom it was more acceptable in this than in the original shape. He himself would have preferred it as he first of-fered it; but the proposition he now submitted was so reasonable and so just that he hoped, without further debate, it would be unanimously adopted.

The amendment of Mr. Gentry is as follows:

Be it further enacted, That the clerks, messengers, watchmen, and laborers employed at an annual salary or in temporary positions in the Executive and Legislative departments of the Government in the city of Washington, whose compensation does not exceed fifteen hundred dollars per annum, shall, in addition therether legislative the content of the c sation does not exceed fifteen hundred dollars per annum, shall, in addition thereto, be allowed the following annual increase of compensation, commencing from the first day of the last fiscal year, vis: All whose annual compensation does not exceed twelve hundred dollars, twenty per cent.; all whose annual compensation exceeds twelve hundred and does not exceed ifteen hundred dollars, an addition of fifteen per cent.; And that the amount of increased compensation provided for in this section shall be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Mr. FOWLER wished to make an inquiry. He understood this proposition to allow this increase from the be-

stood this proposition to allow this increase from the beginning of the last fiscal year. The fiscal year com-menced the 1st of July. Was it designed that this increase of compensation should commence one year ago last July? Mr. GENTRY replied that undoubtedly that would be the effect of the amendment if it should prevail, and that was the intention. It was to give some relief for the state of things here which would not be efficiently reach-

ed if it was not given in this shape.

Mr. DEAN moved to add the following proviso to the mendment:

" Provided, That this section shall not extend to any person "Provided, That this section shall not extend to any person receiving a salary for discharging the duties of more than one office at the same time, or to any person who does not actually discharge the duties of the office for which he receives such salary, or to any person engaged in prosecuting any other than his own claim before any of the Departments or Congress. And that in case any paying or accounting officers of the Government shall pay said additional per centage to any such person, it shall be a misdemeanor in the person knowingly paying or receiving such additional per centage, rendering each liable to indictment and punishment by fine and imprisonment." prisonment."

The amendment was agreed to: Ayes 74, noes 62. Mr. BRENTON moved a substitute for the section under consideration, proposing that after the 4th March, 1853, it shall be the duty of each of the heads of Departments to arrange the clerks in three several classes, according to the nature of the business in which they are engaged, at salaries of \$1,200, \$1,500, and \$1,800; they not to remain in office longer than twelve years. Also, that the salaries of members of Congress shall be two thousand dollars per annum, and the mileage allowance twenty cents per mile, to be computed by a straight line. Deductions to be made for non-attendance, except in cases of sickness or other disability.

Mr. B. remarked that the object of his amendment was

designed to secure what every gentlemen would acknow-ledge was needed in connexion with the several departments—namely, permanency. The only way by which permanency could be secured would be by a classification f the clerks in the different departments. This would not only accomplish permanency, but would destroy all sectionalism in the selection of clerks to fill offices in these lepartments.

In reference to the other provisions of his amendment, they addressed themselves to the judgment of every gentleman of the committee. The country as well as selves were satisfied that they were fast approximating to the period when Congress would be in session from year to year, and that something should be done in order to curtail the length of the sessions. The dissatisfaction in reference to what was called the mileage question pre-vailed in every part of the land. As the law now stood forty cents a mile was allowed; and it was left to the dis-cretion of a member to fix the number of miles he travel-led from his home to the Capitol. The object of his amendment was to reduce one half the amount of com-pensation allowed for mileage, and then left to the Secretary of the Treasury to fix the distance upon a direct line from the residence of each member to the Capitol. The law would allow ample compensation for all travelling

The last part of his amendment was designed to secure punctuality upon the part of members. What had been the fact? During the present session, instead of having two hundred and thirty-one members in attendance, the average attendance, from the beginning of the session to the present time, had been about two hundred, or one hundred and sixty-five. On account of the absence of members, how much delay had occurred for want of a quorum, both in the House and committee? If they ould now only have nerve enough to adopt the plan which he proposed, they would not be under the nec of reporting on the Journal from time to time so many absentees, either in committee or in the House. He did not desire to occupy the time of the committee,

but merely wished to bring the matter before it, as an outline of the principles that should be established in or. der to remedy the evil; for they must all acknowledge out an appropriate remedy. If he had failed to ascertain the remedy, he should most cheerfully unite with any gentheman in any proposition calculated to accomplish the same object he had in view.

Mr. HALL asked the gentleman to accept the following amendment as a modification of the one he had just

" Provided, That the Administration should of course look among those who approve its policy for agents to carry it into

Mr. BRENTON. I would accept that proviso, but my object is to break down party spirit as far as possible.

Mr. HALL. I only wish to remark that I am exceedingly sorry that the gentleman from Indiana should thus repudiate the sentiments of the great leader of the Whig party, for my proviso is in the exact language of Gen.

The question was then taken on the amendment of Mr BRENTON, and it was rejected. Mr. McMULLEN moved a substitute for the amend-

nent of Mr. GENTRY, to the effect that all clerks residing in the District of Columbia, receiving a salary of one thousand dollars annually, shall be paid an addition of fifteen per cent. upon said salaries; and that all clerks receiving over one thousand, and not more than twelve hundred dollars, shall be paid ten per cent. upon their salaries, said clerks residing in the District of Columbia. Mr. McM. submitted a few remarks in favor of his am

Mr. GENTRY hoped that the friends of his proposition would reject all amendments.

The amendment of Mr. McMullen was then dis-

The time to which the five minutes' debate was limited mow expired.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Tennessee, moved to add the follow ing proviso to the amendment :

ing proviso to the amendment:

"Provided, That twenty per cont. be added to the per diem or monthly pay of all employes of the Government engaged in any branch of mechanics or at common labor."

Mr. J. appealed to his colleague to accept this proviso as a part of his proposition. It would give it strength, and this class of people ought to be provided for.

The amendment was rejected.

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. FLORENCE said that he desired to offer an amendment which would appeal to the warmest sympathies of all. [Loud cries of "order! order!"] Members would be surprised that they called him to order when they should hear his amendment read.

The amendment was read as follows: That the prices now paid to all sewing women in the employ-ment of the Government of the United States working upon army clothing, or any other of the supplies actually provided under the direction of the Quartermaster's Department, and produced mainly by female labor, be increased twenty-five per cent.

The amendment was rejected. Mr. McMULLEN moved to amend the amendment by making it apply only to those clerks whose compensat lid not exceed twelve hundred dollars per annun

The amendment was agreed to: Ayes 67, noes 63. Mr. MASON moved to amend the amendment so as to make the increased compensation commence on the first day of the present fiscal year instead of on the first day of the last fiscal year; which was agreed to.

Mr. HOUSTON moved to amend the amendment by adding thereto a proviso that the provisions of this act shall not apply to any person whose compensation has

been increased at the present session of Congress; which was agreed to. Mr. HALL moved a proviso that no person under the provisions of this section shall receive more than \$1,400

annum; which was negatived. per annum; which was negatived.

Mr. H. also moved a proviso that no person under
the provisions of this section shall receive more than
\$1,200 per annum; which was negatived.

Mr. GORMAN moved to include the pages of the House

in the amendment, remarking that every body else was mentioned but them. The amendment was rejected. The original amendment as amended was then agreed to. The amendment as adopted reads as follows:

Be it further enacted, That the clerks, messengers, watch-

men, and laborers employed at an annual salary or in ten rary positions in the Executive and Legislative Departm of the Government in the city of Washington, whose com-pensation does not exceed twelve hundred dollars per annum, shall, in addition thereto, be allowed the following annual inease of compensation, commencing from the first day of the